

**Ohio Senate
Finance Committee
FY2020-2021 Operating Budget
Safe Haven Family Childcare
Domanica Ede, Administrator
June 5, 2019**

Good Afternoon, Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Domanica Ede, Administrator of Safe Haven Family Childcare. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony concerning Substitute House Bill 166, Ohio's budget bill for state fiscal years 2020 and 2021. My testimony is limited to comment and concern on Ohio's quality child care system.

I am the owner of a Type A home family child care named, Safe Haven Family Childcare. I have been a provider for five years in Lima, Ohio. My daycare currently holds a 2-star rating through Step Up to Quality. I currently have twenty publicly funded children on my roster. My role in my community is to be an example of a positive provider. I provide quality care for the children in my daycare, so that the families in our community could work knowing their children are safe and receiving quality care.

Safe Haven Family Childcare is in Allen County, which is one of the counties that will be negatively affected under the proposed rate update. Under the current proposal, Allen County child care providers will be moved to a lower rate category and will see an effective decrease as of July 1st without your intervention. I believe in quality care. By providing quality, I can improve lives of many children and families in my community. This is why my child care is rated a 2-star. I am currently working towards my third star. Further, by becoming a highly rated program, I am providing the families of my community with quality care which is required by the state. Rates are a critical piece in proving quality care in child care.

Child cares across the state are being asked to become a star rated provider. In order to provide this level of care, we will need to provide more tools for our children. We will provide a curriculum that will meet each child at their ages and stages from birth to twelve years old. With the rates that I am currently being paid I am able to provide extracurricular activities which improves the quality of my program. I am also able to meet the needs of my parents which are great. If I notice a child in need, I don't have to stop and wonder do I have the resources to serve this child. I can and I do. I would love to continue to meet the needs of each of the children and their families as well as being a positive model child care provider in Lima Ohio. I support amendment number SC3663, a "hold harmless" for child care providers in the 13 counties that cannot afford to sustain a rate decrease.

Thank you for your time and consideration.